

Reflection

As I sat there watching *A Ripple of Hope*, many thoughts passed through my mind. How could people be so mean to African Americans? How could a man shoot another man? What would have happened if Martin Luther King hadn't been shot? What would have happened if he had never given his speeches and stood up for black rights?

If Martin Luther King had not fought for black rights and given his speeches, the world would be much different. One way is that we may still be riding different buses, drinking from different water fountains, and using different bathrooms. Another way is that our schools may still be separated. I may not have met some of my amazing black friends. Also for most of my mother's teaching career, her principals have been African American. Those principals have done an amazing job in turning the kids in her school into amazing young people. Another thing is that when my mother moved to McLaughlin School, the school gave her a foster grandma to help in the classroom. My mother got to know a sweet black lady we call Grandma Mary. She is the sweetest woman you could ever meet. Grandma Mary has been such a blessing to my mother, helping her with anything she needs and being like an extra grandma to me.

If King had not fought for colored rights, we may live in a totally different world. One reason is so many different African Americans have done great things for the world. One of those people is Patricia Bath, an Ophthalmologist who patented an invention to aid cataract surgery. Just imagine how many people wouldn't be able to see today without her discovery. Another example is Henry Brown. He invented the fire safe. A few weeks ago my aunt had a fire in her house. She had a fire safe where she kept a lot of her money and where her husband

kept some of the things from his life in England. Just imagine all of the important things that may have been ruined if Brown had not invented that safe. One last example is Fredrick Mckinley Jones. He invented the refrigerated truck system. Look how much food has been delivered in refrigerated trucks. Lots! There have also been many singers and sports players who have inspired children to sing or play sports. Many great African Americans have changed the world because of their courage, bravery and numerous inventions.

Those are just some of the many things that went through my head as I watched *A Ripple of Hope*. If Martin Luther King had not spoken his words for people's rights, our world would be very different than it is today.